

QA-236
Godwin House
Centreville
Private

mid-19th century

The Godwin House is an excellent example of a house type that enjoyed considerable popularity in Tidewater Maryland in the mid-19th century. The three-story height, hip roof with widow's walk, and side-hall double parlor plan are all recognizable features of this form. What is unusual about this house is the mixture of interior decorative details. The mixture of Greek Revival decoration with early Victorian details is relatively common in mid-century houses, what is curious is the use of Federal architrave trim throughout the first and second floor and the very fine Federal mantels on the second floor.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Godwin House

AND/OR COMMON

Sinagra Residence

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

128 S. Commerce Street

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Queen Anne's

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

___ DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

___ STRUCTURE

___ SITE

___ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

___ PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

___ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

___ IN PROCESS

___ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED

___ UNOCCUPIED

___ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED

___ YES: UNRESTRICTED

___ NO

PRESENT USE

___ AGRICULTURE

___ MUSEUM

___ COMMERCIAL

___ PARK

___ EDUCATIONAL

☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

___ ENTERTAINMENT

___ RELIGIOUS

___ GOVERNMENT

___ SCIENTIFIC

___ INDUSTRIAL

___ TRANSPORTATION

___ MILITARY

___ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mary Ann Sinagra

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

128 South Commerce Street

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21617

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Queen Anne's County Courthouse

Liber #: MWM 148

Folio #: 358

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

QA-236

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Godwin House is located on the ^{South?} northwest corner of South Commerce Street and Godwin Lane in Centreville.

The house is of frame construction, three stories high, three bays wide, and two rooms deep, with paired chimneys on the north gable of a low hip roof with a widow's walk at the peak. A two story frame addition with a steeply pitched gable roof projects from the south end of the rear facade. The overall form of the main house, particularly the third floor fenestration and the hip roof with widow's walk and bracketed cornice, is typical of the mid-19th century. The rear wing was probably added circa 1880-90. The entire house has been covered with wood shingles; the roof is asbestos tile.

The front facade faces east to South Commerce Street. A wide entrance door with side-lights and transom is located in the south bay of the first floor, with two large 6/6 windows to the right. There are three 6/6 windows on the second floor and three 3/3 windows on the third floor,

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.1 DESCRIPTION

directly below the cornice. Six-light cellar windows are fitted with heavy wood frames and diamond-section horizontal bars. The brick foundation is rendered with stucco and rusticated. The cornice has a deep soffit with decorative scrolled brackets applied against a broad, plain frieze. A one-story porch with square supporting posts stretches across the two south bays of the front facade and wraps around the east end of the south gable. The entrance door has a pilastered surround; the windows are fitted with louvered shutters.

A pair of closely spaced 3/3 windows between the chimneys on the third floor are the only openings on the north gable. The siding, cornice, and roof all match the front facade. On the south gable, there are two 6/6 windows on the first and second floor, two 3/3 windows on the third floor, and a pair of cellar windows in the foundation. The foundation is stuccoed but not rusticated on this facade, all other detail matches the front facade.

The south portion of the rear facade is covered by the rear wing on the first and second floor. There are 6/6 windows in the north and center bay of the first and second floor and three 3/3 windows on

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.2 DESCRIPTION

the third floor. The cornice on this facade is fully bracketed; the foundation is rendered.

The south wall of the rear wing is flush with the rear south wall of the main house. There are three large 2/2 windows on the first floor and three smaller 2/2 windows on the second floor. A cross gable is offset to west of center on the steeply pitched roof. The wing rests on an exposed brick foundation and is covered with wood shingles and an asbestos tile roof. The eaves oversail and are left exposed. A single 2/2 window to the right of the flush brick chimney on each floor are the only openings on the west gable of the wing. The gable eaves overhang and are left exposed. The east end of the north wall is set back, forming a hyphen of sorts between the main house and the rest of the wing. There is a single 6/6 window on the first floor of this hyphen, and one 2/2 window on the second floor. A door is centered on the projecting portion of the wing, with two 2/2 windows on the second floor.

The interior plan of the main house consists of a wide side hall across the south gable and two parlours on the north side of the hall. The open-string

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.3 DESCRIPTION

stair rises against the south wall of the hall to a landing at the rear. It has turned newels, square ballusters and a plain walnut rail. The stair ends are decorated with scrolled brackets, the area below the carriage is paneled. A door below the landing leads to the cellar stairs. A plain arch in the middle of the hall nominally divides it into a front entrance hall and a rear stair hall.

The front and rear parlors are connected by a wide doorway in the interior partition wall. A fireplace projects into each parlor from the gable wall. The mantels are typical of the second quarter of the 19th century, with molded pilasters and rabbeted sideblocks below a complex shelf dominated by large, flat Greek ogee moldings. There is a built-in cupboard to the left of the fireplace in the front parlor and original closets flanking the fireplace in the rear parlor. The closet to the right was originally a dumbwaiter, but this is no longer functional. The fireplace in the rear parlor is fitted with a semi-circular Latrobe-type stove in remarkable condition. It is cast iron and nickel, with mica windows, and is identified as a "Windsor" model, made by the S. B.

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.4 DESCRIPTION

Sexton Stove Manufacturing Co., Baltimore, Maryland.

The most curious feature of this house is the variety of moldings found in combination. Both of the mantels and the rabbeted baseboard trim are typical of the 1840's and 1850's, while most of the architrave trim has a cove-astragal backband generally associated with the first quarter of the 19th century. The stair paneling has an ogee panel mold that was widely used throughout the latter half of the 19th century, but rarely appears earlier than the 1850's. In general, these moldings reinforce the attributed date of circa 1850-60, except for the presence of Federal details in the architrave trim and the second floor mantels.

The first floor plan is repeated on the second floor, but with an original unheated chamber at the east (front) end of the hall. Closets flank the fireplace in the northwest chamber. The mantel in this room is a very fine Federal surround with paneled pilasters and sideblocks, a reeded center block and plain frieze, and a complex molded shelf that breaks forward above the blocks. Further embellishment is derived from a band of lozenge carving below the

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.5 DESCRIPTION

shelf and strips of reeding at the base of each side block. The mantel in the northeast or front chamber is also Federal but is not so elaborate.

The second floor plan is repeated on the third floor. The trim is relatively simple on this floor, including beaded baseboard and architrave trim and plain window frames. A steep ladder-stair in the northwest chamber leads up to the attic and the widow's walk. A carpenter's lock with brass knobs remains on the door to the southeast chamber and a spring latch with brass knobs has survived on the door to the northwest chamber.

The cellar is divided into two rooms by a north-south brick partition wall. The rear (west) room has a brick paved floor and is divided into two smaller rooms by an early board partition. The ceiling and the east wall of this room are plastered. There is a fireplace on the north gable wall of both rooms. The east fireplace is the larger of the two but has been blocked for a furnace flue. A large iron crane stored in the west room probably was removed from the large fireplace before it was blocked. The machine-sawn ceiling joists in the east room

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.6 DESCRIPTION

are whitewashed and have never been plastered. A modern concrete block wall now divides this room in two. The original bulkhead cellar entrance is centered on the rear wall.

The rear wing consists of a short hall and pantry in the "hyphen" and a large kitchen in the main part of the wing. A steep enclosed stair in the northwest corner of the kitchen leads up to segregated servants chambers on the second floor. The original rear wall of the main house remains exposed in the hyphen. The door is framed with a simple architrave with a Federal backband, flanked by original random-width weatherboard siding.

Meat House

A brick meat house 8 feet wide and 10 feet long to the rear of the house is now incorporated into a large frame shed. The brick gable of the pitched roof has survived at the east end of the building but has been demolished at the west end. The only opening is a door centered on the south facade. The door is constructed of vertical beaded boards nailed to beveled battens with wrought nails. A

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.7 DESCRIPTION

wood box lock remains on the door and the original heavy door frame with one iron door pintel has survived, but the door is hung on modern hinges. The brickwork is random common bond with a corbeled cornice.

PERIOD

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Godwin House is an excellent example of a house type that enjoyed considerable popularity in Tidewater Maryland in the mid-19th century. The three-story height, hip roof with widow's walk, and side-hall double parlor plan are all recognizable features of this form. What is unusual about this house is the mixture of interior decorative details. The mixture of Greek Revival decoration with early Victorian details is relatively common in mid-century houses, what is curious is the use of Federal architrave trim throughout the first and second floor and the very fine Federal mantels on the second floor.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

QA-236

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

WEST

IN 1960

1960, 1965

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Orlando Ridout V, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Queen Anne's County Historical Society

DATE OF DATA

7/8/80

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE 8100

CITY OR TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland

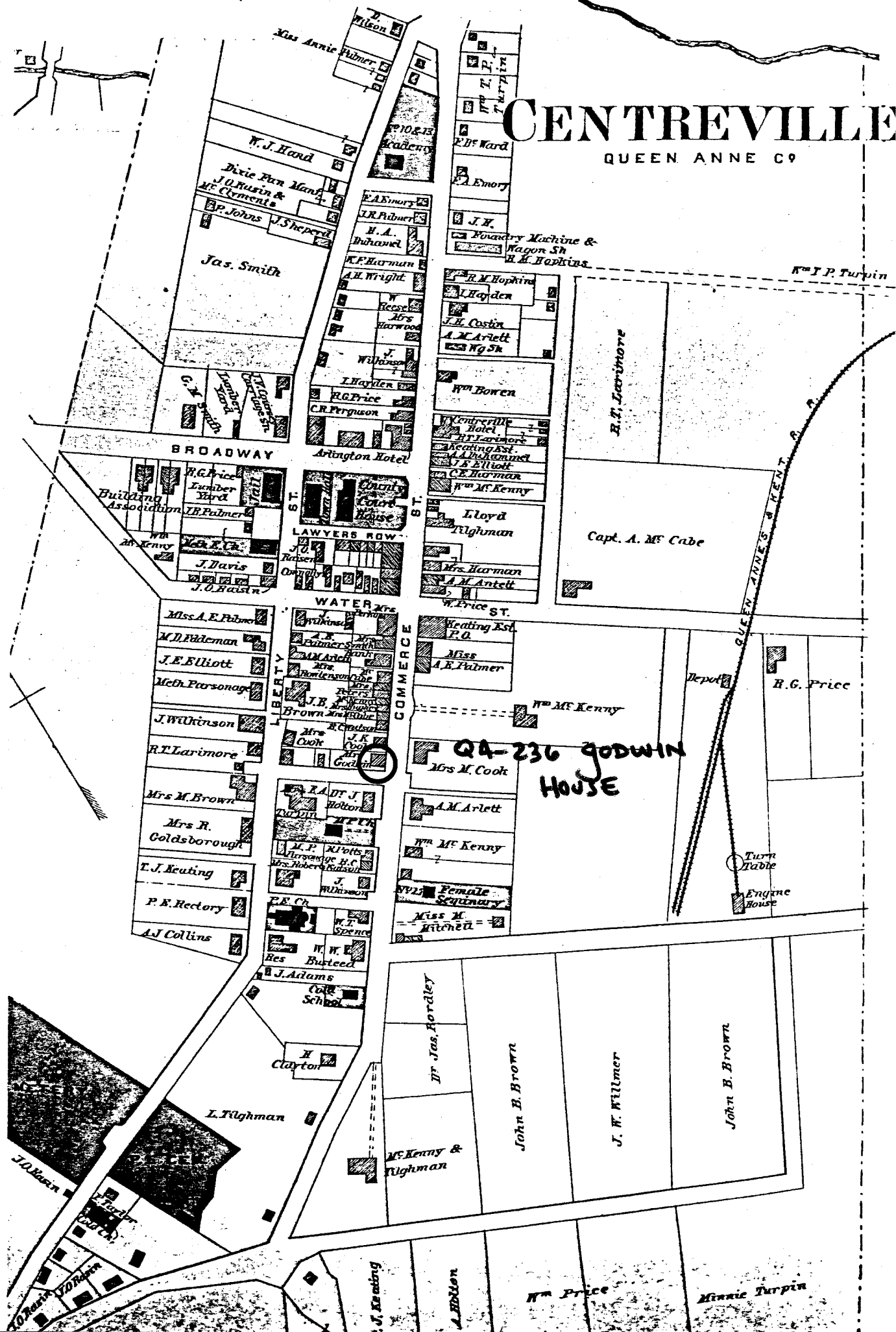
Field Note Books QA-X and Md-I, Recorded July 26, 1979.

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

QUEEN ANNE C9



QA-236
Godwin House

Mary McCarthy
Spring/Summer 2003
Digital color photo on file at MHT





QA-236

128 South Commerce Street
Centreville, Maryland
Orlando Ridout V 1980
View from Southeast



QA-236

128 South Commerce Street
Centreville, Maryland
Orlando Ridout V 1980
Rear facade from West